## VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

## **NEWS RELEASE**



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**CONTACT:** Jay Withrow

Director of Legal Support, VPP, ORA, OPP and OWP

804-786-9873

jay.withrow@doli.virginia.gov

INTEGRITY WINDOWS AND DOORS, IN ROANOKE, VIRGINIA RECEIVES THE VIRGINIA "STAR" DESIGNATION UNDER THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY'S (DOLI) VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAMS

RICHMOND, VA – Commissioner C. Ray Davenport announced today that Integrity Windows and Doors in Roanoke, Virginia, has been reapproved as a Virginia STAR Worksite under the Virginia's Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP), the agency's highest level of recognition for excellence in safety and health management systems. The facility was honored with its third recertification since being originally certified on September 16, 2008. Integrity Windows and Doors is a company of Marvin Lumber and Cedar Company.

"This outstanding achievement in occupational safety and health has come through the dedication and hard work of Integrity Windows and Doors employees and management. I commend Integrity Windows and Doors for embracing the cooperative spirit of VPP, and congratulate them on their hard earned recertification as a Virginia STAR Worksite", said Commissioner Davenport.

Integrity Windows and Doors' commitment to providing a safe and healthy workplace for its employees is demonstrated by its low injury and illness rates. The Roanoke facility has a total three-year average for the TCIR (Total Case Incident Rate for injuries and illnesses) of 3.0 compared with a Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) national rate of 3.8, representing a TCIR rate

21% lower than the national average for the industry. The site's three-year average DART rate (Days Away, Restricted, or Transferred injury and illness cases) is 2.28, compared with the 2.3 national rate, which is 1% below the national average for the industry.

As part of the recognition for achieving Virginia STAR status under VPP, the worksite is entitled to fly the Virginia "STAR Worksite" flag. The Integrity Windows and Doors Roanoke facility is the only Integrity Windows and Doors STAR Worksite in Virginia and is one of eight Marvin Lumber and Cedar Company VPP STAR sites currently in the United States. VPP includes two levels of participation, Merit and STAR, with Virginia STAR being the highest. Similar voluntary protection programs are conducted in other states across the country.

The process for reaching Virginia STAR status is extensive to ensure that only the very best companies qualify. Since the inception of Virginia STAR in 1996, only 69 STAR worksites have been recognized, and only 38 Virginia companies currently retain the STAR/Merit designation. Integrity Windows and Doors site has set a standard of excellence second to none.

In Virginia VPP, a cooperative relationship is formed between the VOSH program, the employer, and the employees which include the agreement of company leaders to operate exceptional safety and health management systems that meet a rigorous set of occupational safety and health criteria. Employers agree to voluntarily participate in the program and to directly involve employees in all aspects of the company's safety and health management systems. Requirements include an extensive application process, submission of written safety and health policies and procedures, demonstration of successful implementation of those programs through injury and illness rates that are below the national average for the employer's industry, and an intensive weeklong inspection by a team of VPP experts.

Virginia businesses that participate in VPP substantially improve safety and health protections for thousands of Virginia employees through cooperative efforts to reduce injuries, illnesses, and fatal accidents. VPP STAR sites regularly report decreased bottom line costs associated with dramatically reduced injury and illness rates (an average of approximately 60% below the respective industry average), and improved productivity and employee morale.

Reducing private sector employer costs associated with injuries, illnesses, and fatal accidents enhances a company's economic viability and competitiveness, and increases available capital for reinvestment, expansion, and new hiring.

DOLI operates five voluntary protection and recognition programs. The <u>Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program</u> (SHARP) for businesses of 250 employees or fewer is operated by the DOLI Consultation Services Division. For additional information on SHARP contact Allen Hatch, Consultation Program Manager, at (540) 248-9280 ext. 15, or Allen.Hatch@doli.virginia.gov.

Virginia Voluntary Protection Programs (VVPP) operates Virginia STAR; and Virginia BEST (Building Excellence in Safety, Health and Training), which is a strategic partnership between the DOLI and the Associated General Contractors of Virginia (AGCVA) that recognizes AGCVA members who voluntarily implement highly effective safety and health management systems to benefit construction workers and reduce or eliminate injuries, illnesses and fatalities on construction sites in Virginia. Virginia CHALLENGE is a three stage process that dramatically improves safety and health at the worksite and prepares the company to apply for Virginia STAR recognition. The VOSH-VADOC CHALLENGE is a strategic partnership between the DOLI and the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) to recognize safety and health excellence at correctional facilities around the Commonwealth. Three stages of participation in VADOC Challenge prepare a site to apply for Virginia STAR recognition. Virginia has the only two correctional facilities in the nation to have received VPP STAR status, Augusta and Lunenburg Correctional Centers. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the DOLI office closest to you at <a href="https://www.doli.virginia.gov">www.doli.virginia.gov</a> or contact Milford Stern, VPP Program Manager, at (540) 562-3580 ext. 123, or Milford.Stern@doli.virginia.gov.

DOLI also offers free On-Site Consultation Services to help employers better understand and voluntarily comply with VOSH standards. Priority is given to high hazard workplaces with 250 or fewer employees and all services are offered to employers at no cost. On-Site Consultation Services helps employers identify and correct potential safety and health hazards by conducting

walk-through surveys (without citations or penalties), abatement advice, on-site training, and program assistance to develop safety and health programs. Additional information about On-Site Consultation Services can be obtained by contacting the DOLI office closest to you at <a href="https://www.doli.virginia.gov">www.doli.virginia.gov</a> or by contacting Allen Hatch, Consultation Program Manager, at (540) 248-9280 ext. 15, or <a href="mailto:Allen.Hatch@doli.virginia.gov">Allen. Hatch@doli.virginia.gov</a>.

The Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) program is financed with 50% state funds and 50% federal funds in the form of a grant from the U. S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), under §23(g) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

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